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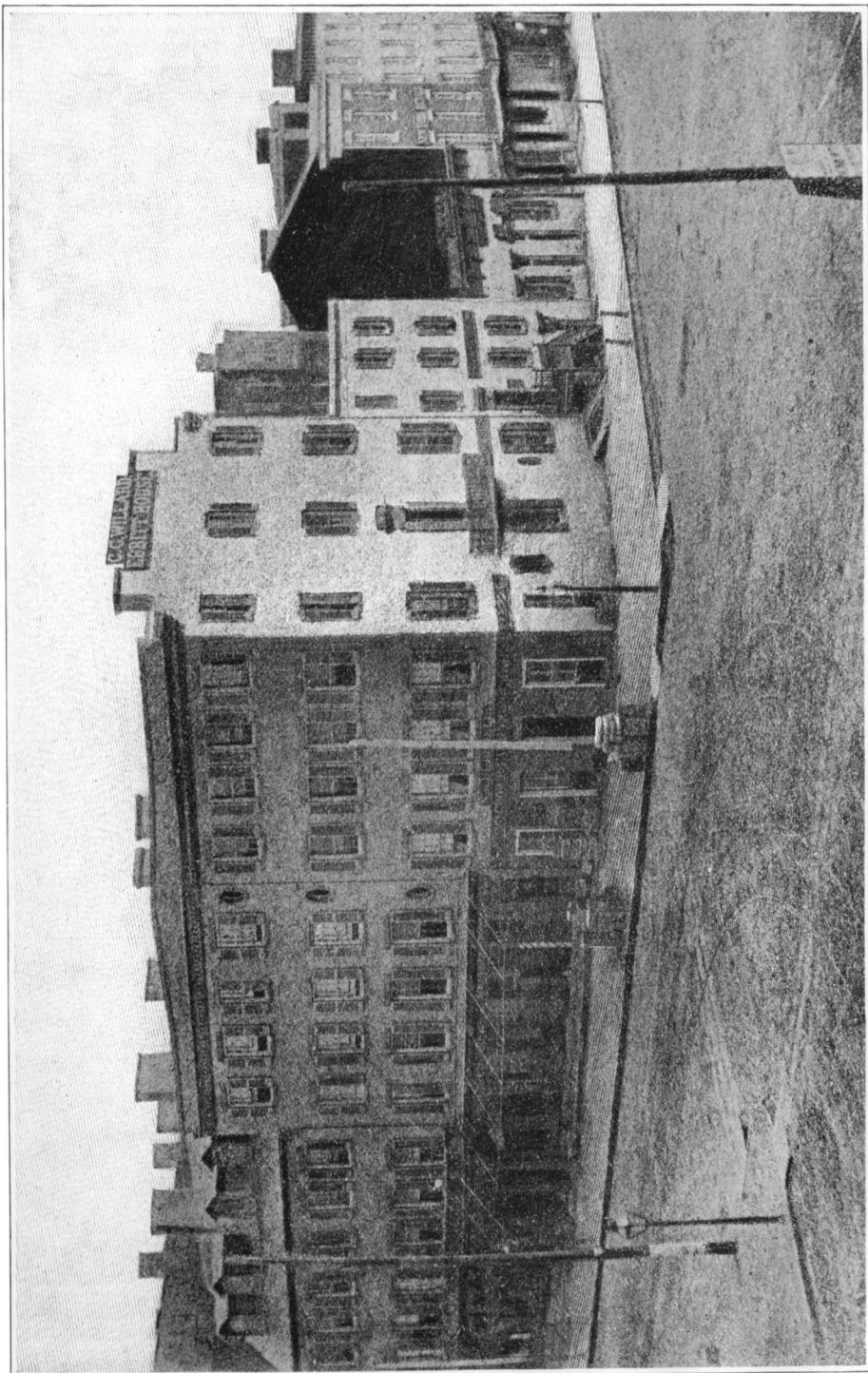
REMARKS OF JOHN B. LARNER BEFORE THE
SOCIETY MARCH 10, 1902, IN EXHIBITING
AN OLD PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SOUTH-
EAST CORNER OF 14TH AND F
STREETS.

The photograph which I exhibit was taken during the month of November, 1865, and represents the southeast corner of Fourteenth and F Streets, northwest, in this city, as it appeared at that time, being then known as the Ebbitt House. The street at that corner shows the curved tracks of the Metropolitan Railroad Company turning from Fourteenth into F street over cobble-stone pavements with the old footings crossing the street at three angles.

There are also shown three telegraph poles, all of which are now removed, but, I regret to say, there is still a large pole on the northwest corner of the street in front of the present Wyatt Building. Leaning against one of the poles represented in the picture is a billboard upon which is posted, presumably, the theatrical attractions at the time, which method was in vogue then and for a long time subsequent thereto.

The Ebbitt House is composed of four dwellings, as can be plainly seen from the photograph. The first floor of the corner house is shown to be occupied by N. W. Burchell, grocer. Bushrod W. Reed occupied this store for the same purpose prior to N. W. Burchell. Mr. Reed came to the city of Washington in 1833 from Westmoreland County, Virginia. He purchased this corner and erected the building thereon, establishing himself in 1836 in the grocery business,

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EBBITT HOUSE, SOUTHEAST CORNER OF FOURTEENTH AND F STREETS.

From a photograph taken in November, 1865, in collection of John B. Larner.

Larner: Old Photograph of 14th and F Streets. 101

and remaining until he sold the building to C. C. Willard in 1864, when he removed to the southeast corner of 13th and F Streets, where he conducted business for some time. Afterwards he moved to the middle of the square on F Street between Twelfth and Thirteenth, at which place he remained until the time of his death. He was succeeded by his two sons, William B. and R. H. W. Reed, who continued the business for some years later. Both of these sons are now dead.

Mr. Burchell subsequently removed from the Ebbitt House and occupied the store room at No. 1332 F Street, being a part of the present Hooe Building, until that property was purchased by Mr. Willard, when he removed to the opposite side of the street, continuing in business until his death. The establishment is now conducted by his son, N. L. Burchell.

Perhaps the oldest house in this block is the one adjoining the corner. The dividing line is shown on the photograph by a series of oval windows which opened into bath-rooms constructed over a four-foot alley between the two houses. This house was a double dwelling built shortly after 1800 by David Craufurd, the original owner of this property, who obtained title to the same from the United States on the eighteenth day of June, 1798. The property afterwards became that of Sarah C., daughter of David Craufurd, who married Richard Forrest, reference to which has been made in the paper on "Richard Forrest and His Times" read before this society on the fourth of February, 1902, by Mrs. Kate Kearney Henry, granddaughter of Richard Forrest.

Prior to 1856 these buildings were known as the Frenchman's Hotel, for what reason I do not know, except I have been informed that they were kept by a

Frenchman. In 1856 this property was purchased by William E. Ebbitt from William J. Smith and then occupied as a boarding house conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Ebbitt, after whom the Ebbitt House was named. Mr. Ebbitt on the first day of September, 1863, conveyed the property to Albert H. Craney, his son-in-law, who afterwards, on the first of September, 1864, again conveyed the same to its present owner, Mr. C. C. Willard. Albert H. Craney was the same man who, for a long time, conducted what was known as the Craney Hotel at West Point, and was well known in army circles. He is now dead.

The first house below the corner on Fourteenth Street was for a long time occupied by the Reed family, but at the time of the taking of the photograph it was used for newspaper offices and the sign on the building is that of the *New York Times*. From this building down is a series of others, the last one of which shown on the photograph is the Occidental, now standing, but which will shortly be demolished to make way for a large office building.

Just north of the Occidental is the Farnham House, which was occupied at that time by the *New York Herald*. This property originally belonged to David Burns, descended to his daughter Marcia and was by her, in 1802, conveyed to William H. Dorsey. On May 16, 1818, William H. Dorsey conveyed the property to William Blanchard, whose son, Valentine Blanchard, was formerly the proprietor of the book store at the corner of Eleventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, the establishment being subsequently known as that of Blanchard & Mohun. In the settlement of the estate of William Blanchard, this property became that of his daughter, Mrs. Jane Farnham, who obtained title on the tenth day of July, 1850. October 4, 1866, the property was conveyed to Mr. C.

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THE OCCIDENTAL.

C. Willard by Mrs. Farnham, the consideration being \$74,000, or about \$30 per square foot. It was sold at public auction, and Mr. Willard was the highest bidder at that figure. The Farnham House has had quite a history, and was occupied by many prominent men, including John Bell, of Tennessee, who, it is said, at one time paid as high as \$600 per month for the rooms which he occupied. This building was subsequently torn down, and the last three windows of the dining-room of the present Ebbitt House mark the site where it was originally located.

The two one-story buildings shown on the picture adjoining the Farnham House were also the property of Mr. Bushrod W. Reed, and were occupied by the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, the New York *Evening Post* and other newspaper offices, the names of which are not decipherable from the photograph. The buildings formed part of those subsequently known as Newspaper Row. The photograph does not represent the corner buildings as they existed in 1864, the time when they were purchased by Mr. Willard. He had, prior to the taking of the picture, raised the roofs of two of the buildings, which were originally three-story with dormer windows.

It is said that, on the lot upon which now stand the small buildings known as Nos. 1336 and 1338 F Street, immediately east of the Ebbitt House, in the rear, stood the home of Aaron Burr. There was a paling fence said to have been in front of the house with a small gate, through which the neighbors entered the yard to obtain water from a very fine well in the rear, which existed there at that time.